

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 06656 080143Z

60

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 071012Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6314

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6656

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, KS

SUBJECT: ROKG CONCERN ABOUT CATHOLIC POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

REF: SEOUL 6590 (NOTAL)

1. DURING OCT 7 MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR PRIME MINISTER KIM CHONG PIL MENTIONED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER KIM DONG JO HAD BEEN DIRECTED TO GO TO ROME TO SPEAK TO THE VATICAN ON POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF CATHOLICS. HE PLANS TO GET TO ROME ON OCT 11. BASIC PITCH WILL BE TO URGE VATICAN TO RECOGNIZE SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE EMBODIED IN CONSTITUTION AND DISCOURAGE POLITICAL DEMONSTRATIONS BY CATHOLIC CLERGY. PRIMIN SAID PRESIDENT PARK PARTICULARLY CONCERNED BY CATHOLIC ACTIVITIES IN SEOUL AND WONJU.

2. PRIMIN ALSO MADE SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN MISSIONARIES ALONG LINES ALMOST EXACTLY SIMILAR TO REF. HE STRESSED, AS HAD CHOE KYU HA, CATHOLIC CLERGY AND MISSIONARY PARTICIPATION IN DEMONSTRATIONS. HE SAID IN CONTRAST ROKG NOT RPT NOT CONCERNED ABOUT ACTIVITIES OF PROTESTANTS.

3. PRIMIN IN SUMMING UP SAID THAT, IF CATHOLICS COULD MODERATE ACTIVITIES, HE WOULD EXPECT LENIENT AND FAVORABLE ATTITUDE AND ACTIONS BY PRESIDENT BY
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CHRISTMAS TIME. HE IMPLIED THAT THIS "CARROT" TO

BE APPARENTLY OFFERED BY CHRISTMAS, WOULD APPLY TO
BISHOP CHI AS WELL AS OTHERS NOW HELD IN JAIL.
SNEIDER

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